to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

(vi) Fiscal incentives for increased use of non-conventional oils by the vanaspati industry, exemption from excise duty in respect of refined rice bran, cottonseed and soyabean oils meant for direct human consumption and also for refined solvent extracted oil.

(b) No import of oi]seeds has been made so far. The edible oil is imported to bridge the gap between demand and supply as also to check its prices. This has not affected the edible oilseeds production within the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Steps have been taken to safeguard the interest of farmers and check the fall in prices by announcing minimum support prices of oilseeds. Support prices of oilseeds for 1987-88 has already been announced.

High Import of fertilizers

•313. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEH-TA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 44 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th Novem-bes, 1987 and state:

(a) what are the reasons for which the import of fertilizers was Main-tafined at a high level of 23 lakh tonnes when the consumption of fertilizers went up from 82 lakh tonnes to 87 lakh tonnes and the local production went up from 52 lakh tonnes to 71 lakh tonnes during 1984-85 to 1986-87 and there was satisfactory previous stocks;

(b) which are the agencies from whom the Indian agencies have bought fertilfizersduring the last three years;

(c) what is the method of buying imported fertilizers; whether by Global tenders or by any other method; and

(d) whether any *new tender* system was enforced in 1986-87 putting the local producers in disadvantageous position?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) Import of 30 lakh tonnes of nutrients during the year 1986-87 was considered necessary to achieve the targetted consumption of 103 lakh tonnes. However, on review conducted during the first week of September, 1986, the import was scaled down from the approved level of 26 lakh tonnes to 23 lakh tonnes of nutrients. It was not possible to reduce the imports further because the balance quantity of nitrogenous and phosphatfic fertilisers had already been contracted for imports.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 87) .

(c) MMTC, the designated agency for import of fertilisers, arranges the required material by global tenders followed by negotiations as well as by direct negotiations based on ruling international prices.

(d) No new tender system was enforced in 1986-87 for procuring fertiliser from abroad.

Production of edible oilseeds

*314. SHRI PA WAN KUMAR BAN-SAL; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage ofuse Of indigenous edible oils used inthe production of vanaspati ghee inthe country;

(b) what steps have been taken to increase the production of edible oilseeds in the country; and

(c) by When the country is likely to attain self-sufficiency in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The percentage use of indigenous edible oils used in the production of vanaspati in the last three years has been as under:—

Oil year (Nov -Oct.) .	Percent-age of Indi-genous oils used
1984-85	34.7
1985.86	48.8
1986-87	50.4

(b) A statement indicating the important measures taken by the Government in this regard is enclos ed. *(See* below) .

(c) It is not possible to indicate a definite period but increase in self-reliance in oilseeds/edible oils produc tion is expected by the end of the 7th Plan.

Statement

Government has taken a number of measures to increase the production of oilseeds and oils. The important measures taken are:—

1. Implementation of the National Oilseeds Development Project, covering special measures for groundnut, rapeseed/mustard soyabean and sunflower besides intensive development work on five other oilseeds.

2. State-level cooperative oilseeds growers' federation have been formed in some States under the project for restructuring of edible oils_ and oilseeds production and marketing through National Dairy Development Board.

3. Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices for oilseeds at higher levels.

4. Intensification of research efforts for increasing the productivity of oilseeds. A technology mission, on oilseeds has been set up.

5. Increase in area under non-traditional oilseed crops like soya bean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

9. Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

7. Fiscal incentives for increased use of non-conventional oils by the vanaspati industry, exemption from excise duty in respect of refined rice bran, cottonseed and soyabean oils meant for direct human consumption and also for refined solvent extracted oil.

Moratorium amount due towardsMeridien Hotel, Hotel Bharat andProminent Hotels (P) Ltd.

•315. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARl VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVE-LOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) amounts due from Meridien Hotel, Hotel Bharat of New Delhi and Prominent Hotels (P) Ltd., as mora torium amount and also as interest and under what policy such huge amount were allowed to be in arrears;

(b) the payment received from each one so far; and